

**Co-Chairs****Roger Madsen***Director, Idaho Commerce & Labor***Trent Clark***Public Affairs Director, Monsanto*

821 West State Street • Boise, Idaho 83653 • (208) 334-3131 • Fax (208) 334-2505 • <http://www.irp.idaho.gov>

Press Release

Qwest Foundation gives \$25,000 to *Fund for Rural Idaho*

(Wednesday, September 28, 2005) The [Qwest Foundation](#) gave the Idaho Rural Partnership \$25,000 this week. The money goes into the *Fund for Rural Idaho* and will support a variety of community development and leadership training efforts throughout Idaho.

Roger Madsen, Idaho Rural Partnership Co-Chair, said: "Qwest's incredibly generous gift is truly an investment in rural Idaho. The Partnership's ability to provide leadership training and [Community Reviews](#) throughout the state is greatly enhanced because of the Qwest Foundation. We are fortunate and grateful rural Idaho has such good neighbors."

Qwest's Idaho President Jim Schmit said: "Qwest is committed to making a positive difference in the communities where our employees live and work. Idaho Rural Partnership's efforts in rural Idaho match our mission and we appreciate the opportunity to support that work."

The *Fund for Rural Idaho* is managed by the [Idaho Community Foundation](#) as a philanthropic gift fund. Donations to the fund are tax deductible.

Qwest is a member of the new Idaho Rural Business Development Council. The council serves as the private business advisory group to the [Idaho Rural Partnership](#). The Idaho Rural Business Council consists of the Idaho Wheat Commission, Monsanto, Idaho Farm Bureau and Qwest. The newly formed group is actively seeking members and donors to the Fund for Rural Idaho.

The Qwest Foundation's core principle is that investing in people and communities provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards grants to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on K-12 education and economic development.

Contacts: Ed Lodge, Qwest, (208) 385-2154
Dale Dixon, Idaho Rural Partnership, (208) 272-0596

The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) joins diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.

Dale Dixon, *Executive Director*
dale.dixon@irp.idaho.gov • (208) 272-0596